GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2763
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2001
DELEGATION VISITED FOREIGN COUNTRIES
NAWAL KISHORE RAI;RAMJI LAL SUMAN;UTTAMRAO DEORAO PATIL

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation headed by him visited abroad recently;

(b) if so, the names of the countries visited by the said delegation besides Russia;

(c) the persons in the delegation who visited abroad on the Government expenses and the role of each of them in discharging the official work during their visit; and

(d) the duration of this visit and the total expenditure incurred on it?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) to (d):- Government of India have offered 25 exploration blocks for exploration of oil and gas under the Second round of New Exploration Licensing Policy(NELP).In order to effectively promote the Second round of NELP, it was decided on the basis of the advice tendered by the Marketing Consultant for NELP-II namely; M/s IHS Energy Group, U.K. and in consultation with the Directo General of Hydrocarbons, that the Delegation having representation at the highest level should visit the potential countries. Accordingly, the Delegation led by the Minister (P&NG)and consisting of Minister of State (MOS), Senior Officersof the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Director General of Hydrocarbons visitedLondon (U.K.), Houston (USA) Tokyo (Japan) and Singapore during January-February, 2001 for Promotional Roadshows. The Delegation for NELP-II did not visit Russia.

The details of the Delegation are in Annexure. Each member of the Delegation had joint as well as individual duties. Minister, MOS, Secretary/Addl. Secretary were present to show the commitment of Government and explain overall sectoral policies during presentation and one-on-one meetings.

The total expenditure on account of the visit of the Delegation for the Roadshows is aboutRs 36 lakhs. While the expenditure in respect of the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas andthe Minister o f State for Petroleum and Natural Gas was met by the Government of India, the expenditure in respect of the remaining members of the Delegation was borne by the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons under its relevant Budget head.